

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3350

To reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 20, 2003

Mr. UPTON (for himself, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Prematurity Research  
5       Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants  
6       Early Act” or the “PREEMIE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
3 ings:

4 (1) Premature birth is a serious and growing  
5 problem. The rate of preterm birth increased 27 per-  
6 cent between 1981 and 2001 (from 9.4 percent to  
7 11.9 percent). In 2001, more than 476,000 babies  
8 were born prematurely in the United States.

9 (2) Preterm birth accounts for 23 percent of  
10 deaths in the first month of life.

11 (3) Premature infants are 14 times more likely  
12 to die in the first year of life.

13 (4) Premature babies who survive may suffer  
14 lifelong consequences, including cerebral palsy, men-  
15 tal retardation, chronic lung disease, and vision and  
16 hearing loss.

17 (5) Preterm and low birthweight birth is a sig-  
18 nificant financial burden in health care. The esti-  
19 mated charges for hospital stays for infants with any  
20 diagnosis of prematurity/low birthweight were  
21 \$11,900,000,000 in 2000. The average lifetime med-  
22 ical costs of a premature baby are conservatively es-  
23 timated at \$500,000.

24 (6) The proportion of preterm infants born to  
25 African-American mothers (17.3 percent) was sig-  
26 nificantly higher compared to the rate of infants

1       born to white mothers (10.6 percent). Prematurity  
2       or low birthweight is the leading cause of death for  
3       African-American infants.

4               (7) The cause of approximately half of all pre-  
5       mature births is unknown.

6               (8) Women who smoke during pregnancy are  
7       twice as likely as nonsmokers to give birth to a low  
8       birthweight baby. Babies born to smokers weigh, on  
9       average, 200 grams less than nonsmokers' babies.

10              (9) To reduce the rates of preterm labor and  
11       delivery more research is needed on the underlying  
12       causes of preterm delivery, the development of treat-  
13       ments for prevention of preterm birth, and treat-  
14       ments improving outcomes for infants born preterm.

15       (b) PURPOSES.—It is the purpose of this Act to—

16              (1) reduce rates of preterm labor and delivery;

17              (2) work toward an evidence-based standard of  
18       care for pregnant women at risk of preterm labor or  
19       other serious complications, and for infants born  
20       preterm and at a low birthweight; and

21              (3) reduce infant mortality and disabilities  
22       caused by prematurity.

1 **SEC. 3. RESEARCH RELATING TO PRETERM LABOR AND DE-**  
2 **LIVERY AND THE CARE, TREATMENT, AND**  
3 **OUTCOMES OF PRETERM AND LOW BIRTH-**  
4 **WEIGHT INFANTS.**

5 (a) GENERAL EXPANSION OF NIH RESEARCH.—  
6 Part B of title IV of the Public Health Service Act (42  
7 U.S.C. 284 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the  
8 following:

9 **“SEC. 409J. EXPANSION AND COORDINATION OF RESEARCH**  
10 **RELATING TO PRETERM LABOR AND DELIV-**  
11 **ERY AND INFANT MORTALITY.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of NIH shall ex-  
13 pand, intensify, and coordinate the activities of the Na-  
14 tional Institutes of Health with respect to research on the  
15 causes of preterm labor and delivery, infant mortality, and  
16 improving the care and treatment of preterm and low  
17 birthweight infants.

18 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF RESEARCH NETWORKS.—  
19 There shall be established within the National Institutes  
20 of Health a Maternal-Fetal Medicine Units Network and  
21 a Neonatal Research Units Network. In complying with  
22 this subsection, the Director of NIH shall utilize existing  
23 networks.

24 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
25 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,

1 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years  
2 2004 through 2008.”.

3 (b) GENERAL EXPANSION OF CDC RESEARCH.—  
4 Section 301 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
5 241 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
6 lowing:

7 “(e) The Director of the Centers for Disease Control  
8 and Prevention shall expand, intensify, and coordinate the  
9 activities of the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-  
10 tion with respect to preterm labor and delivery and infant  
11 mortality.”.

12 (c) STUDY ON ASSISTED REPRODUCTION TECH-  
13 NOLOGIES.—Section 1004(c) of the Children’s Health Act  
14 of 2000 (Public Law 106–310) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the  
16 end;

17 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and  
18 inserting “; and”; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(4) consider the impact of assisted reproduc-  
21 tion technologies on the mother’s and children’s  
22 health and development.”.

23 (d) STUDY ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PRE-  
24 MATURITY AND BIRTH DEFECTS.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Centers  
2           for Disease Control and Prevention shall conduct a  
3           study on the relationship between prematurity, birth  
4           defects, and developmental disabilities.

5           (2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 year after the  
6           date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the  
7           Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall  
8           submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a  
9           report concerning the results of the study conducted  
10          under paragraph (1).

11          (e) REVIEW OF PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT  
12          MONITORING SURVEY.—The Director of the Centers for  
13          Disease Control and Prevention shall conduct a review of  
14          the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring Survey to en-  
15          sure that the Survey includes information relative to med-  
16          ical care and intervention received, in order to track preg-  
17          nancy outcomes and reduce instances of preterm birth.

18          (f) STUDY ON THE HEALTH AND ECONOMIC CON-  
19          SEQUENCES OF PRETERM BIRTH.—

20               (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National  
21               Institutes of Health in conjunction with the Director  
22               of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
23               shall enter into a contract with the Institute of Med-  
24               icine of the National Academy of Sciences for the  
25               conduct of a study to define and address the health

1 and economic consequences of preterm birth. In con-  
2 ducting the study, the Institute of Medicine shall—

3 (A) review and assess the epidemiology of  
4 premature birth and low birthweight, and the  
5 associated maternal and child health effects in  
6 the United States, with attention paid to cat-  
7 egories of gestational age, plurality, maternal  
8 age, and racial or ethnic disparities;

9 (B) review and describe the spectrum of  
10 short and long-term disability and health-re-  
11 lated quality of life associated with premature  
12 births and the impact on maternal health,  
13 health care and quality of life, family employ-  
14 ment, caregiver issues, and other social and fi-  
15 nancial burdens;

16 (C) assess the direct and indirect costs as-  
17 sociated with premature birth, including mor-  
18 bidity, disability, and mortality;

19 (D) identify gaps and provide rec-  
20 ommendations for feasible systems of moni-  
21 toring and assessing associated economic and  
22 quality of life burdens associated with pre-  
23 maturity;

24 (E) explore the implications of the burden  
25 of premature births for national health policy;

1 (F) identify community outreach models  
 2 that are effective in decreasing prematurity  
 3 rates in communities;

4 (G) consider options for addressing, as ap-  
 5 propriate, the allocation of public funds to bio-  
 6 medical and behavioral research, the costs and  
 7 benefits of preventive interventions, public  
 8 health, and access to health care; and

9 (H) provide recommendations on best  
 10 practices and interventions to prevent pre-  
 11 mature birth, as well as the most promising  
 12 areas of research to further prevention efforts.

13 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the  
 14 date on which the contract is entered into under  
 15 paragraph (1), the Institute of Medicine shall submit  
 16 to the Director of the National Institutes of Health,  
 17 the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and  
 18 Prevention, and the appropriate committees of Con-  
 19 gress a report concerning the results of the study  
 20 conducted under such paragraph.

21 (g) EVALUATION OF NATIONAL CORE PERFORMANCE  
 22 MEASURES.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the  
 24 Health Resources and Services Administration shall  
 25 conduct an assessment of the current national core



1 performance measures and national core outcome  
2 measures utilized under the Maternal and Child  
3 Health Block Grant under title V of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) for purposes of expanding such measures to include some of the  
4 known risk factors of low birthweight and pre-  
5 maturity, including the percentage of infants born to  
6 pregnant women who smoked during pregnancy.

7 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the  
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of  
9 the Health Resources and Services Administration  
10 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report concerning the results of the evaluation conducted under paragraph (1).

11 **SEC. 4. PUBLIC AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDER EDUCATION**  
12 **AND SUPPORT SERVICES.**

13 Part P of title III of the Public Health Service Act  
14 (42 U.S.C. 280g et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
15 the following:

16 **“SEC. 3990. PUBLIC AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDER EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES.**

17 **“(a) IN GENERAL.—**The Secretary, directly or  
18 through the awarding of grants to public or private non-  
19 profit entities, shall conduct a demonstration project to  
20 improve the provision of information on prematurity to

1 health professionals and other health care providers and  
2 the public.

3 “(b) ACTIVITIES.—Activities to be carried out under  
4 the demonstration project under subsection (a) shall in-  
5 clude the establishment of programs—

6 “(1) to provide information and education to  
7 health professionals, other health care providers, and  
8 the public concerning—

9 “(A) the signs of preterm labor, updated  
10 as new research results become available;

11 “(B) the screening for and the treating of  
12 infections;

13 “(C) counseling on optimal weight and  
14 good nutrition, including folic acid;

15 “(D) smoking cessation education and  
16 counseling; and

17 “(E) stress management; and

18 “(2) to improve the treatment and outcomes for  
19 babies born premature, including the use of evi-  
20 dence-based standards of care by health care profes-  
21 sionals for pregnant women at risk of preterm labor  
22 or other serious complications and for infants born  
23 preterm and at a low birthweight.

24 “(c) REQUIREMENT.—Any program or activity fund-  
25 ed under this section shall be evidence-based.

1       “(d) NICU FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS.—The Sec-  
2   retary shall conduct, through the awarding of grants to  
3   public and nonprofit private entities, projects to respond  
4   to the emotional and informational needs of families dur-  
5   ing the stay of an infant in a neonatal intensive care unit,  
6   during the transition of the infant to the home, and in  
7   the event of a newborn death. Activities under such  
8   projects may include providing books and videos to fami-  
9   lies that provide information about the neonatal intensive  
10   care unit experience, and providing direct services that  
11   provide emotional support within the neonatal intensive  
12   care unit setting.

13       “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
14   are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,  
15   such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years  
16   2004 through 2008.”.

17   **SEC. 5. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL ON PRE-**  
18                   **MATURITY AND LOW BIRTHWEIGHT.**

19       (a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to  
20   stimulate multidisciplinary research, scientific exchange,  
21   and collaboration among the agencies of the Department  
22   of Health and Human Services and to assist the Depart-  
23   ment in targeting efforts to achieve the greatest advances  
24   toward the goal of reducing prematurity and low birth-  
25   weight.

1 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Health and  
2 Human Services shall establish an Interagency Coordi-  
3 nating Council on Prematurity and Low Birthweight (re-  
4 ferred to in this section as the Council) to carry out the  
5 purpose of this section.

6 (c) COMPOSITION.—The Council shall be composed of  
7 members to be appointed by the Secretary, including rep-  
8 resentatives of—

9 (1) the agencies of the Department of Health  
10 and Human Services; and

11 (2) voluntary health care organizations, includ-  
12 ing grassroots advocacy organizations, providers of  
13 specialty obstetrical and pediatric care, and re-  
14 searcher organizations.

15 (d) ACTIVITIES.—The Council shall—

16 (1) annually report to the Secretary of Health  
17 and Human Services on current Departmental ac-  
18 tivities relating to prematurity and low birthweight;

19 (2) plan and hold a conference on prematurity  
20 and low birthweight under the sponsorship of the  
21 Surgeon General;

22 (3) establish a consensus research plan for the  
23 Department of Health and Human Services on pre-  
24 maturity and low birthweight;

1           (4) report to the Secretary of Health and  
2       Human Services and the appropriate committees of  
3       Congress on recommendations derived from the con-  
4       ference held under paragraph (2) and on the status  
5       of Departmental research activities concerning pre-  
6       maturity and low birthweight;

7           (5) carry out other activities determined appro-  
8       priate by the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
9       ices; and

10          (6) oversee the coordination of the implementa-  
11       tion of this Act.

12   **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13       There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
14   this Act, such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal  
15   years 2004 through 2008.

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